

REMARKS

In this preliminary amendment, the specification is amended to include section headings and the required language for claiming benefit to an earlier filed application. Prior to this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-28 were pending in this application. Claims 1-28 are amended to conform the claims to US practice. Claims 29-32 are added. The amendments are supported through out the specification and no new matter is added by way of these amendments.

Applicants also note that informal comments were submitted on May 19, 2006 in the parent PCT application. A communication from the International Bureau dated June 16, 2006 states that a copy of the informal comments will be communicated to each designated state. Related remarks are provided below with regard to the above amended claims. Applicants request consideration of the following remarks during examination.

The International Search Report and Written Opinion (ISR/WO) cites Blow et al. (WO 02/056506) and alleges that the saturable absorber disclosed in Blow is the claimed saturable absorber. However, Blow states that, “[transmission] through the [saturable absorber]... causes the [optical] pulse width to be reduced... [achieving a balance] between the effects of pulse broadening caused by the DM transmission line 12 and the pulse narrowing caused by the NOML 14. This results in an increase in the potential pulse propagation distance as compared with a conventional DM transmission line.” (Blow, page 13, lines 17-25)

In contrast, the amended independent claims state that the claimed optical pulse regenerator, including a saturable absorber, enables broadening temporal widths and flattening center portions of an optical pulse. Blow specifically discloses use of a saturable absorber to narrow pulse widths that were broadened by another component. This is opposite the claimed invention. Accordingly, the amended independent claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of Blow. In addition, the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the amended independent claims upon which they depend.

Early favorable action is urged. Should any further aspects of the application remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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